

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

DIVISION OF STATEWIDE PLANNING

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March 28, 2002

The Honorable John Nickels
Mayor, City of False Pass
P.O. Box 50
False Pass, AK 99853-0050

Dear Mayor Nickels:

Thank you for your letter of March 4 concerning the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan. In it you brought up concerns over several plan particulars concerning False Pass. I will attempt to address those concerns here.

Concerning the airport runway length, a runway lengthening project does not currently appear in the aviation needs list, but pointing out the discrepancy as we have done in Table 9 (p. 27) should help to raise awareness of the need to address this in the future. Thank you for the information about the upcoming airport master plan. It was a very recent addition to the aviation improvement program, and is currently scheduled for 2003-04. We will include it in the final plan's project listing.

We also note a recent adjustment in the False Pass population figure (2000 = 64, 2001=76) that will also be reflected in the final plan's 2020 forecast.

Our apologies for mistakenly showing a picture of a Peter Pan Seafoods dock (p. 23) indicating it was the city dock. If you have an electronic version of a picture of the actual public dock on file, we will gladly use it in the final plan. Please send it directly to my email address eric.taylor@dot.state.ak.us, along with your permission to publish it. If not, we'll probably have to go to the Department of Community and Economic Development's online photo list for a substitute (their most recent False Pass pictures are from 1998).

Concerning ferry service, the reality of current state budget shortfalls makes any improvement in ferry service problematic in the absence of new and substantial revenue sources. While we remain hopeful in the long run, we see an arduous process ahead for Alaskans in general and state legislators in particular to determine which government - provided services are important enough to fund and therefore to raise revenue for. So we encourage your continued and persistent dialogue with our elected officials.

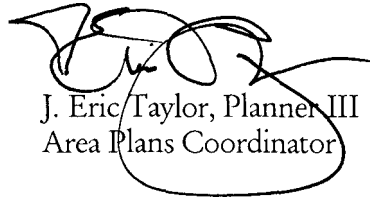
We note the recent addition of the False Pass harbor project in the 2002 RAPIDS database. The final plan will reflect the change.

We appreciate the excellent work that has gone into the September 2001 AEB Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - it is an excellent document. We are making good use of it and will continue to do so. However, we also recognize that it primarily addresses community-level projects. It is not our intention in the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan to echo the AEB TIP or to detract from it. Rather our intent is to address the next tier of transportation, namely between communities and into/out of the region.

If there is something in particular in the AEB TIP that you think we have missed in the Southwest Plan, we will gladly consider it.

Thank you again for your valued input. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Eric Taylor". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

J. Eric Taylor, Planner III
Area Plans Coordinator